

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 9, 11 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 24. Claims 5, 8, 10, 43-44 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, all claim amendments herein are directed towards matters of form and thus are unrelated to patentability.

Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 11-12 are novel over Terui (6,225,694).

Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 11-12 depend from allowable Claim 24. Accordingly, Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 11-12 are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 24.

For the above reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter.

Applicants note that in the Office Action Summary, Claims 24-29 are indicated as allowed. However, at page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner states in obvious error:

Claims 24-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Applicants note that Claim 24 is an independent claim. Accordingly, Claim 24 is allowable. Claims 25-29, which depend from Claim 24, are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 24.

Thus Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claims 24-29.

As to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

All claim amendments herein are directed towards matters of form and place the application in a condition for allowance.

Accordingly, this Amendment is entitled to entry pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Conclusion.

Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 11-12, 24-29 are pending in the application. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions relating to the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant(s).

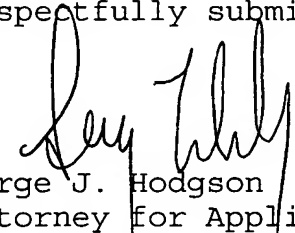
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 14, 2005.

  
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Attorney for Applicant(s)

December 14, 2005  
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

  
Serge J. Hodgson  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 40,017  
Tel.: (831) 655-0880